

CEOE Safety Alert Summer Safety Reminders

For those who need to work after hours:

No one is permitted to work alone in a laboratory. If it is necessary to work after hours in the laboratory, arrangements must be made to work with one additional person for safety consideration.

Proper laboratory attire:

Sandals, shorts and skirts are not proper laboratory attire. They do not protect individuals from spills and other mishaps. Please dress for safety, not for summer convenience. You can always wear pullovers (as medical people wear in operating rooms) over shorts.

No one is to go barefoot in any building, lab or aboard ship. Protect yourself from sunburn and potential skin cancer (melanoma) by using sun screen. There is a document available for sunscreen as well as other field pertinent safety considerations on our College safety committee web site [School of Marine Science & Policy - Lewes \(www.ceoe.udel.edu/ehs\)](http://www.ceoe.udel.edu/ehs). [Environmental Health & Safety's \(www.udel.edu/ehs\)](http://www.udel.edu/ehs) website also has very useful information.

Safety Glasses – eye protection:

EHS staff visits our campus frequently to pick up hazardous waste and they frequently notice that our students, staff and faculty do not wear safety glasses in the laboratory. EHS has written a strong letter to us about this in the past. EHS has the option of performing a safety audit, and if a laboratory is found not in compliance, EHS can close that laboratory for an indefinite period of time to all activity. We should be smart enough to wear safety glasses! Even filtering seawater in a glass vessel can be dangerous. If the glass falls and breaks, a sliver of glass can get into the eye and cause damage! I know of one instance when an accident occurred as a simple task like this was performed.

Another potential problem is the use of acetone when a person wears plastic contact lenses. If safety glasses are not used, and acetone gets into the eyes, the contact lens may fuse to the cornea of the eye, which would require an operation to remove. This could even occur at home as people use finger nail polish remover containing acetone. Finger nail polish remover not containing acetone should be purchased.

Thanks for your adherence to our safety policies and procedures. Have a safe and productive summer!

George W. Luther, III

Safety Chair, Lewes